

Thumbnailing for Animation

Thumbnails from a sequence of Disney's Rescuers

Preparing for Animation: The Art of Thumbnailing



The Art of Thumbnailing

Good animation begins with good planning. One of the first things an animator should do is thumbnail his scene. By thumbnailing we mean creating small quick drawings which provide a blueprint for the poses in the scene.

By working small and rough the animator can try out a number of different poses and come up with the best approach to the scene before committing to animation. This is the stage where problems in staging and acting can be resolved. Once you have worked out the action at this small size it is easy to blow it up on the xerox machine and paste it up to start your scene.

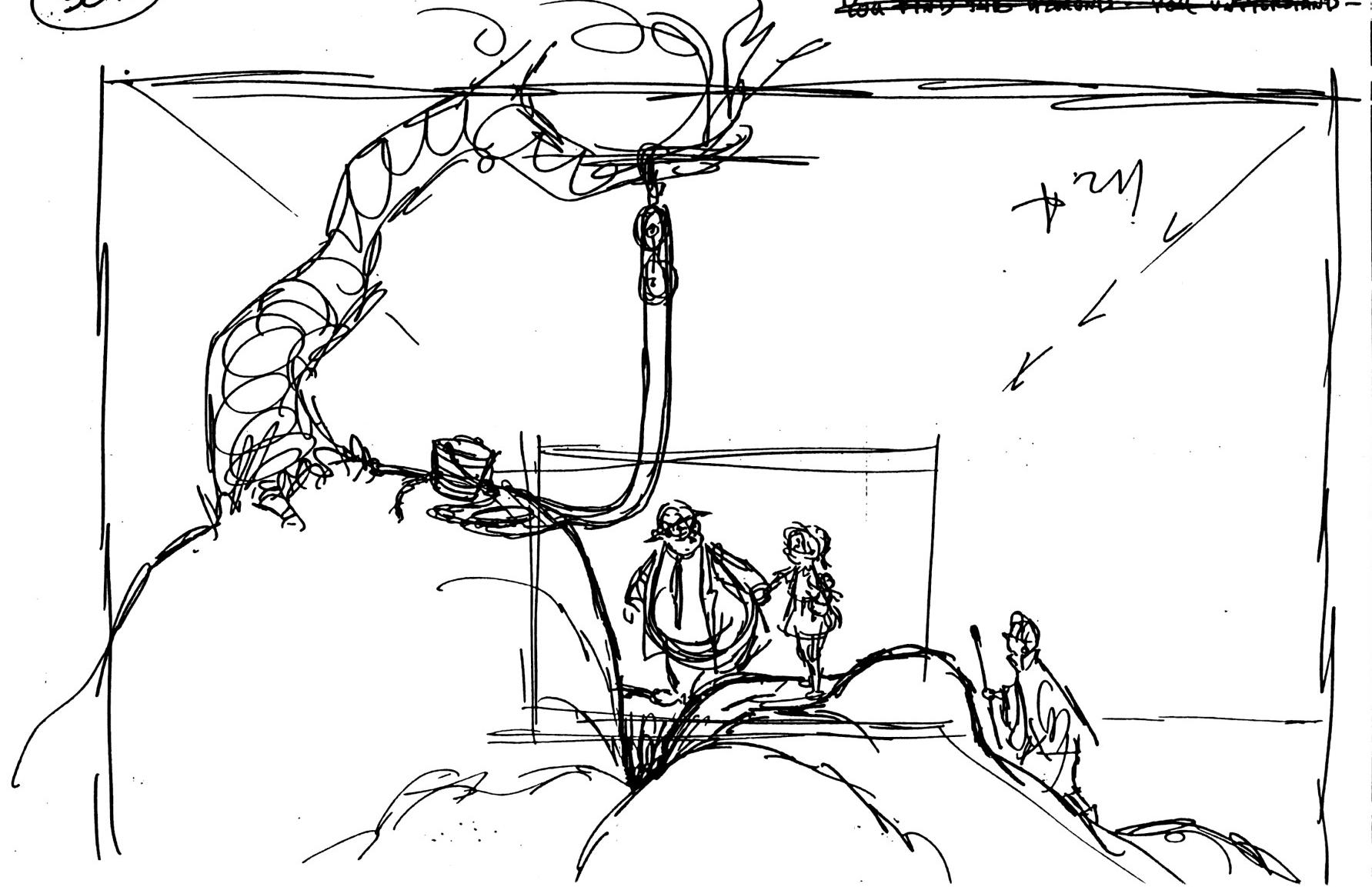
This set of notes shows a sequence from Disney's Rescuers where the animator has worked out his staging and action in a series of great thumbnails.

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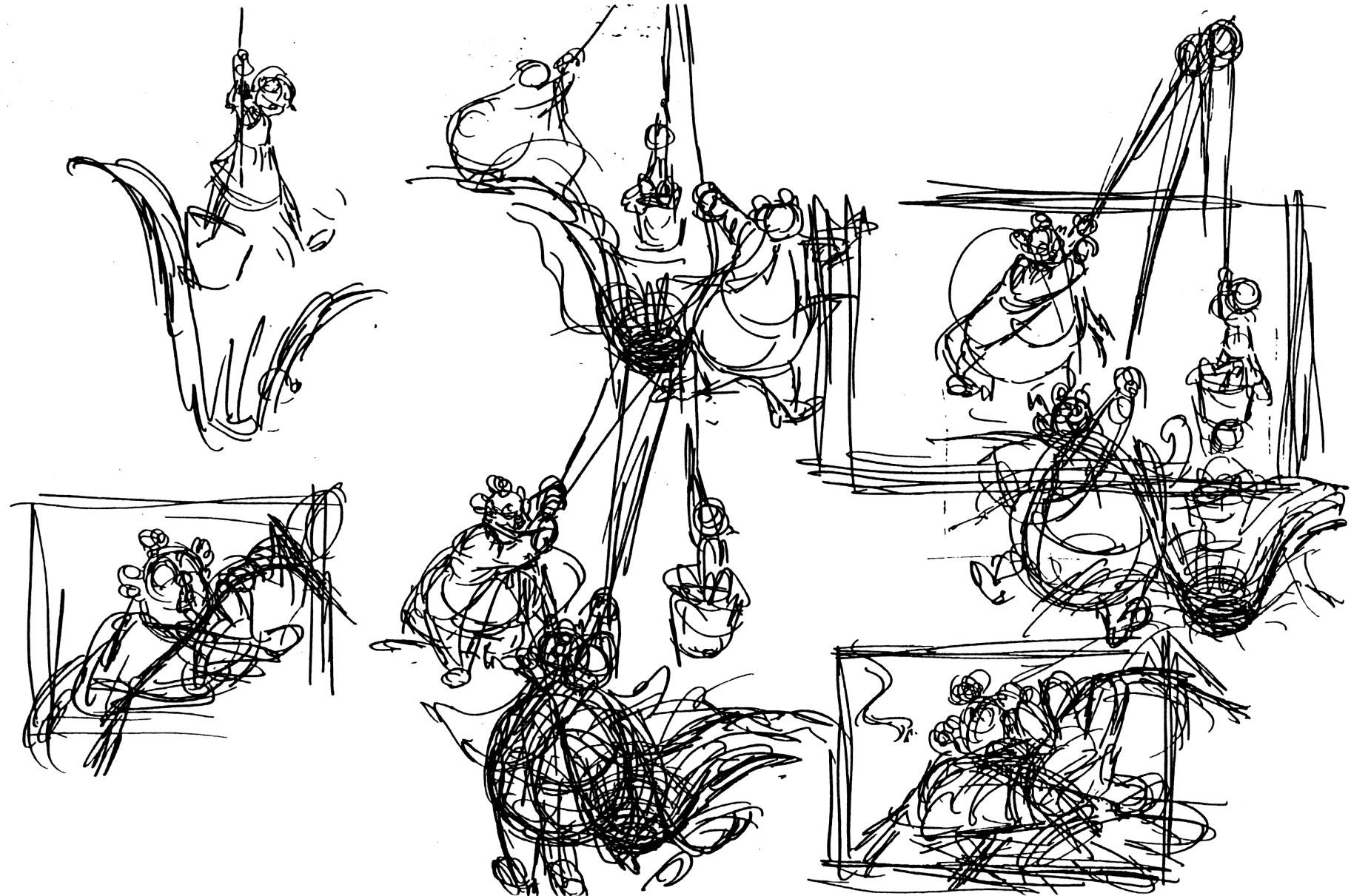
Sc 1.1

SNOOPS AND PENNY ARRIVING AT HOLE — MEDUSA FOLLOWING.

SNOOPS: "ALL RIGHT YOU LITTLE BEAT, NOW YOU'RE GOINNA GO DOWN IN THAT HOLE ~~AND THE MUSK~~
~~YOU FIND THE WRECKED FISH UP THERE AND~~"



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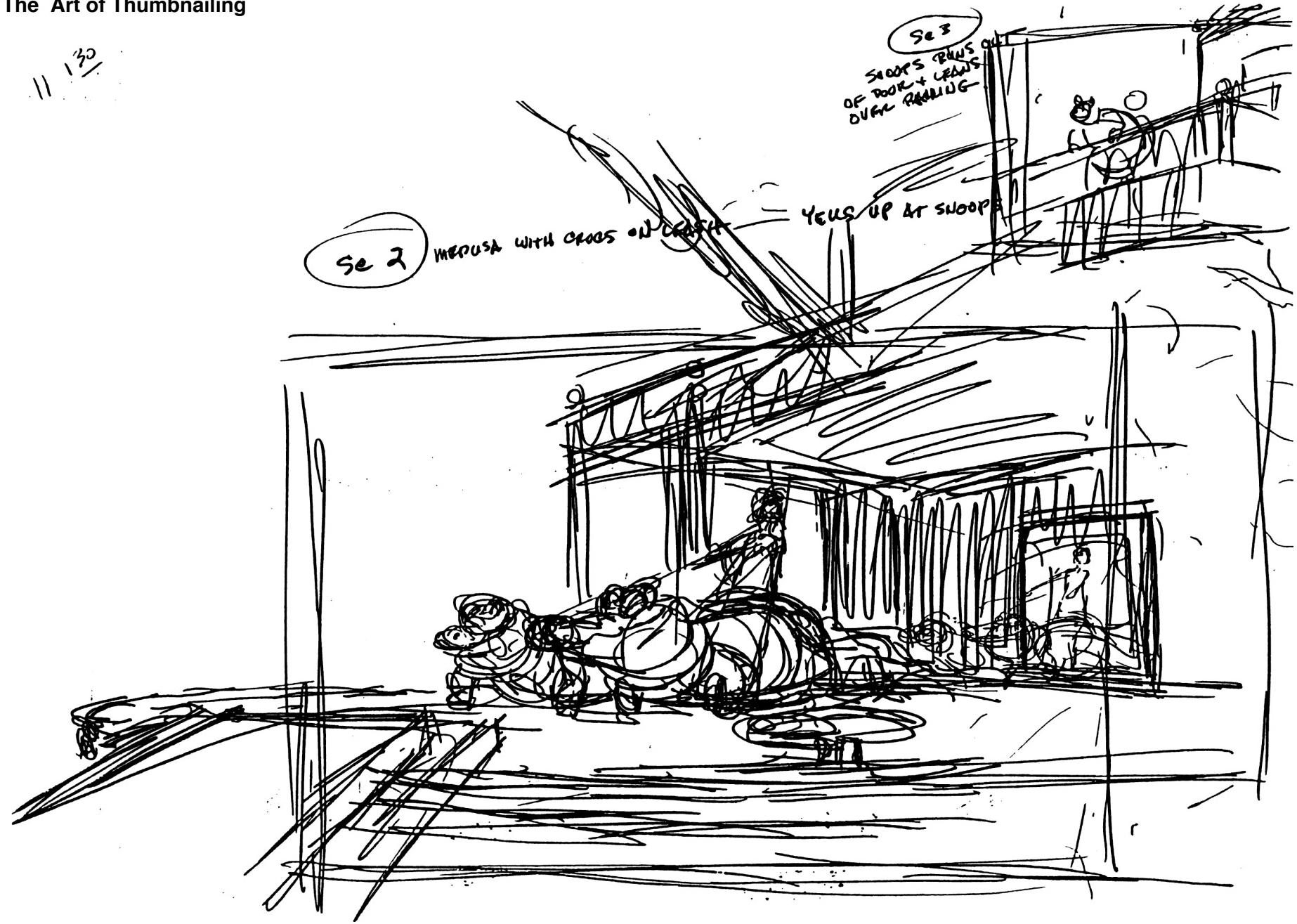
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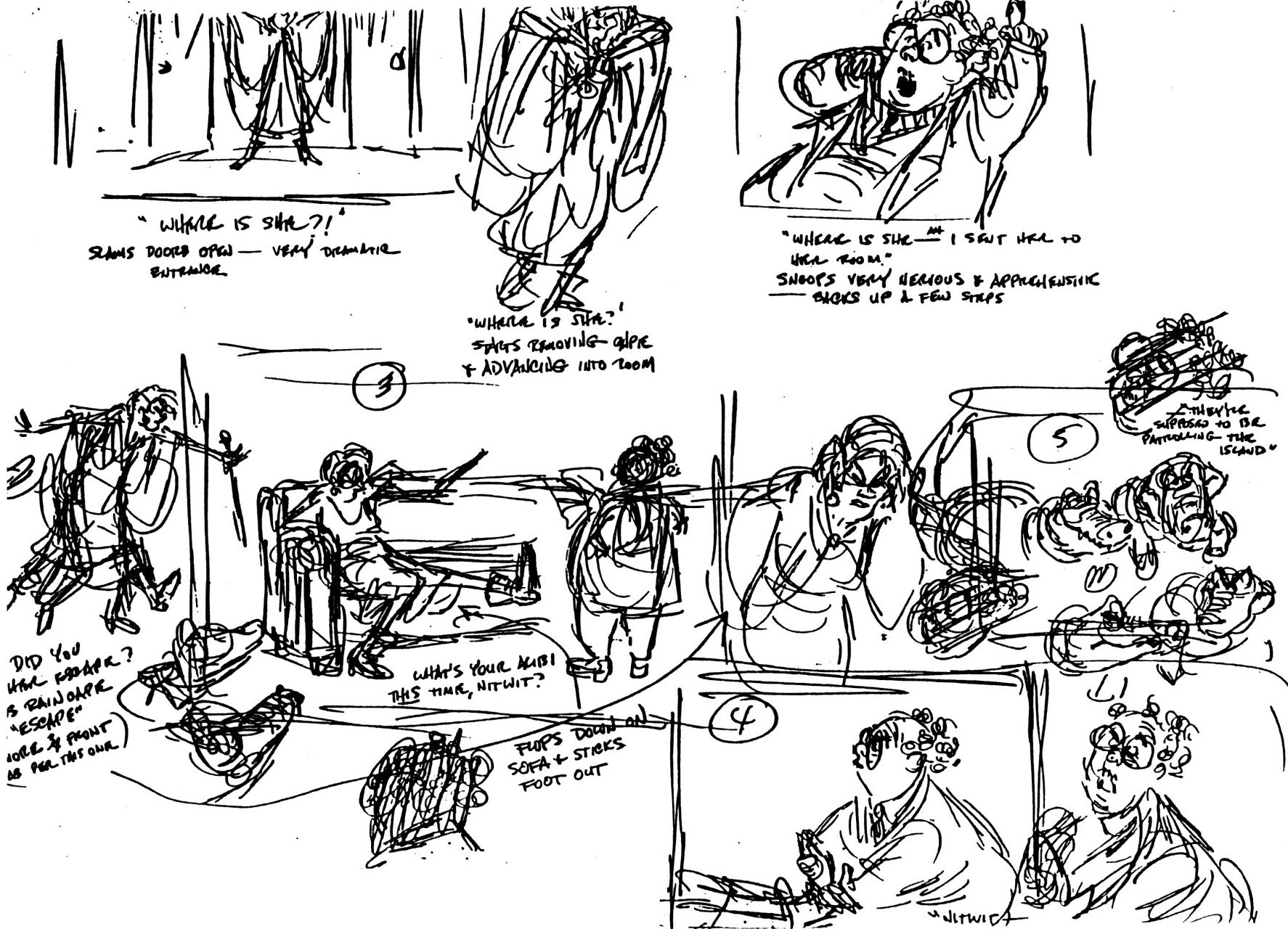
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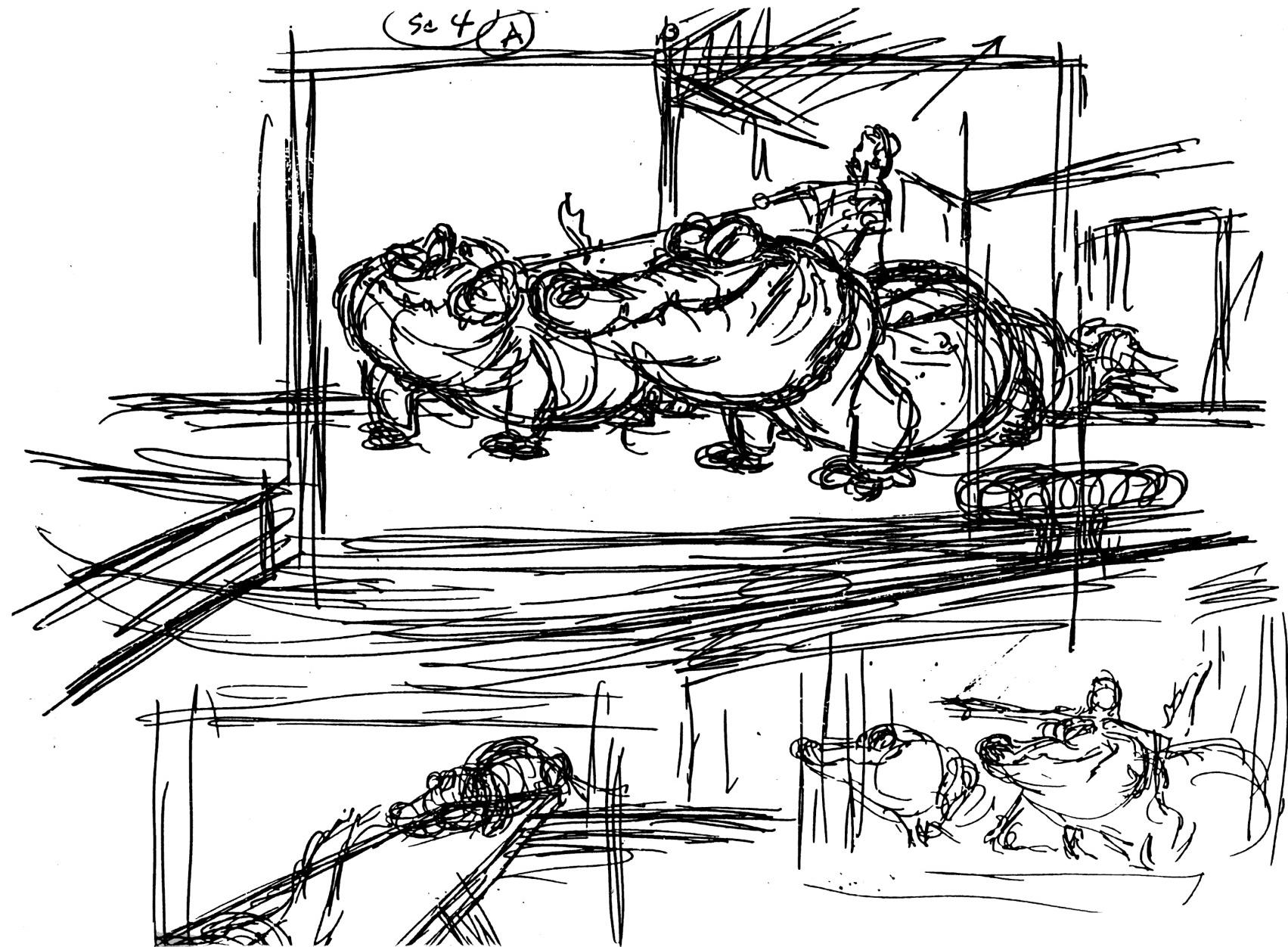
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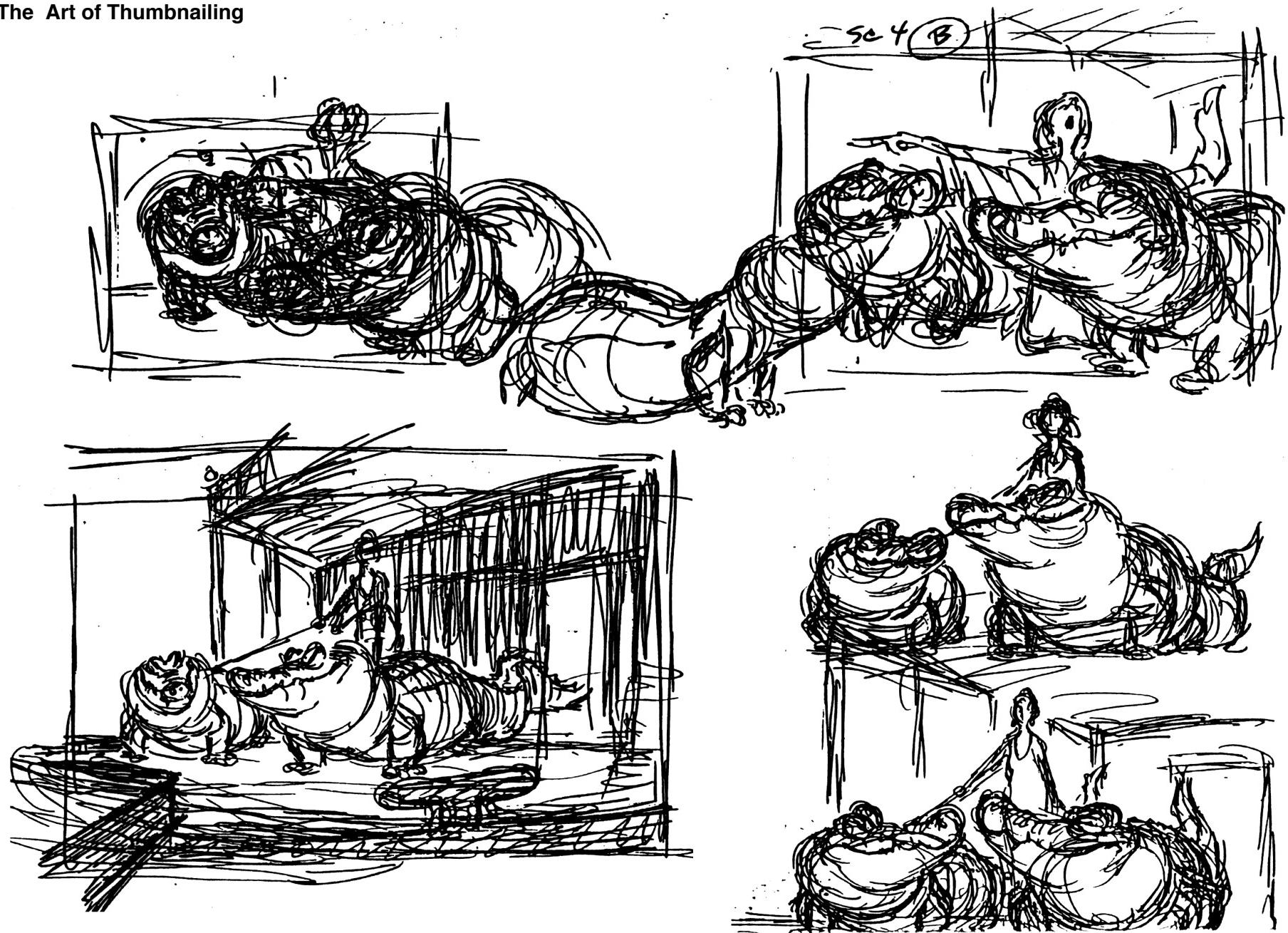
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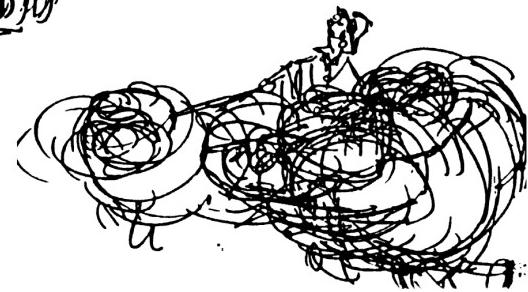


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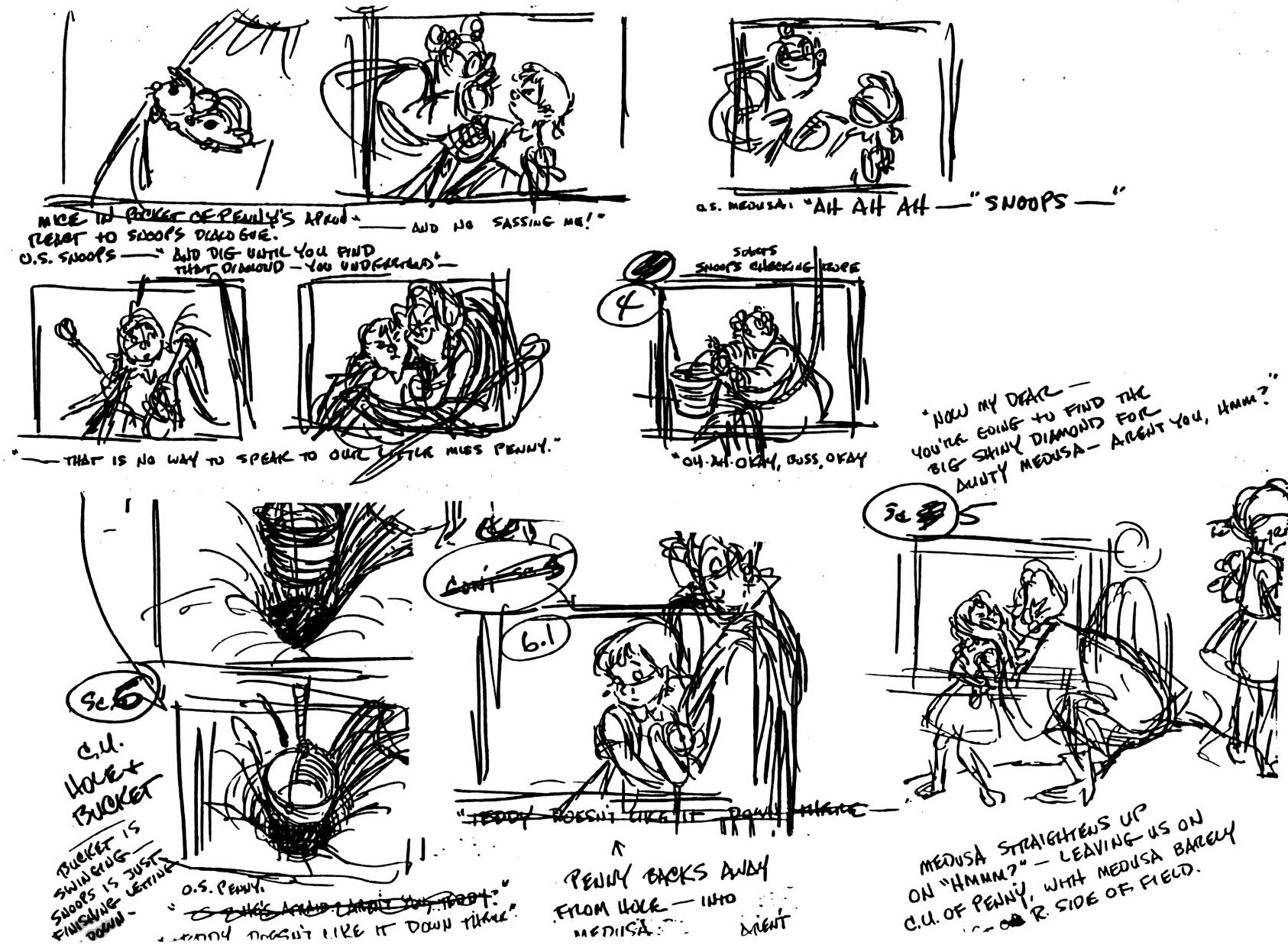


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SNOOPS! SNOOPS! GET DOWN HERE!
HULL WA WHAT'S UP, MEOWSA? WHAT'S GOIN' ON?
THAT LITTLE BRAT HAS ESCAPED AGAIN!
NERO! BRUTUS! BRING HER BACK BOYS!

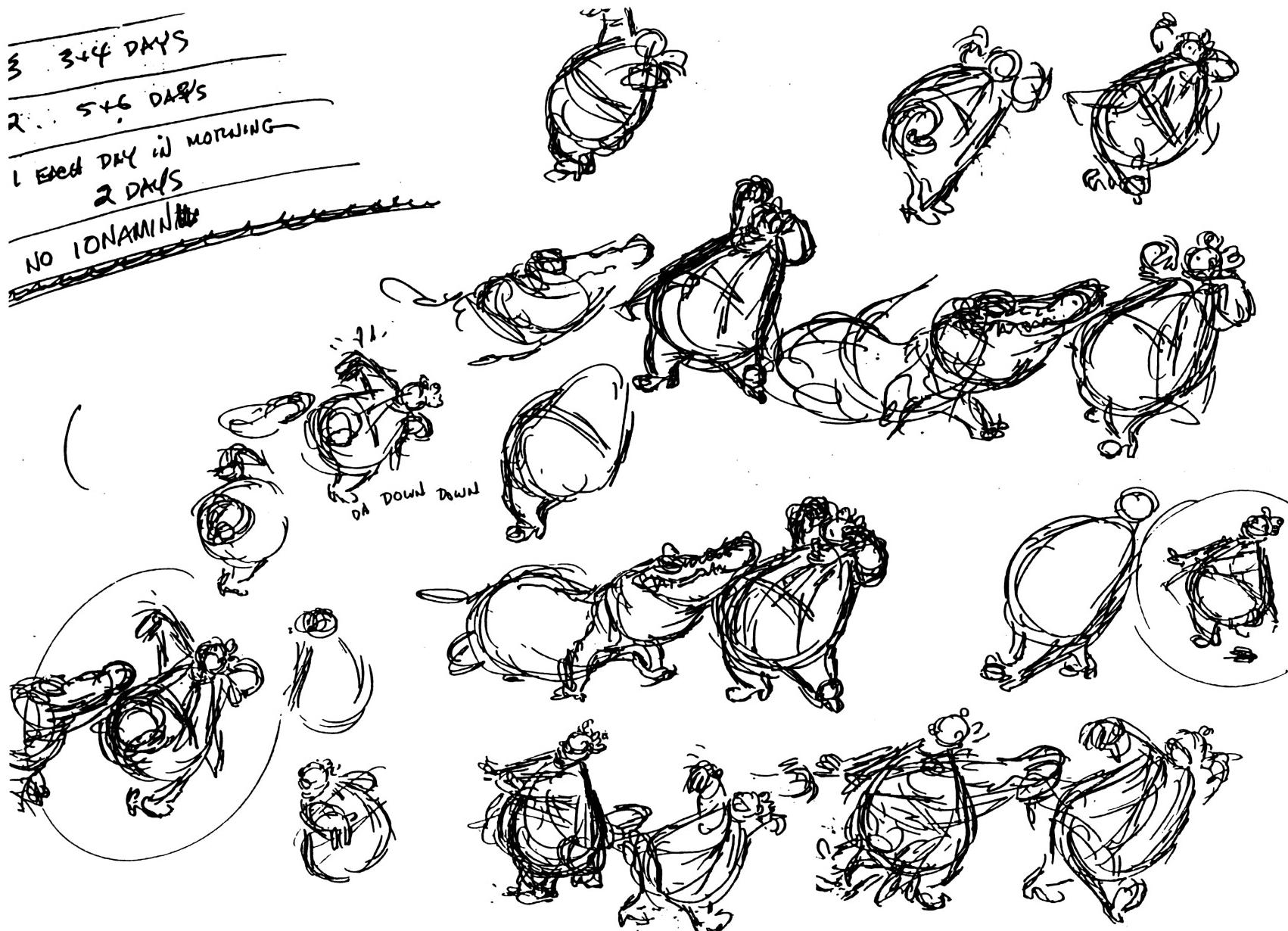


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3 3+4 DAYS
2 5+6 DAYS
1 EACH DAY IN MORNING
2 DAYS
NO IONAMINE



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PENNY CROWDED AGAINST MEDUSA —
LOOKING FEARFULLY AT HOLE.
MEDUSA EYESING TEDDY BEAR
MEDUSA: "AW, TSK TSK, POOR TEDDY!"

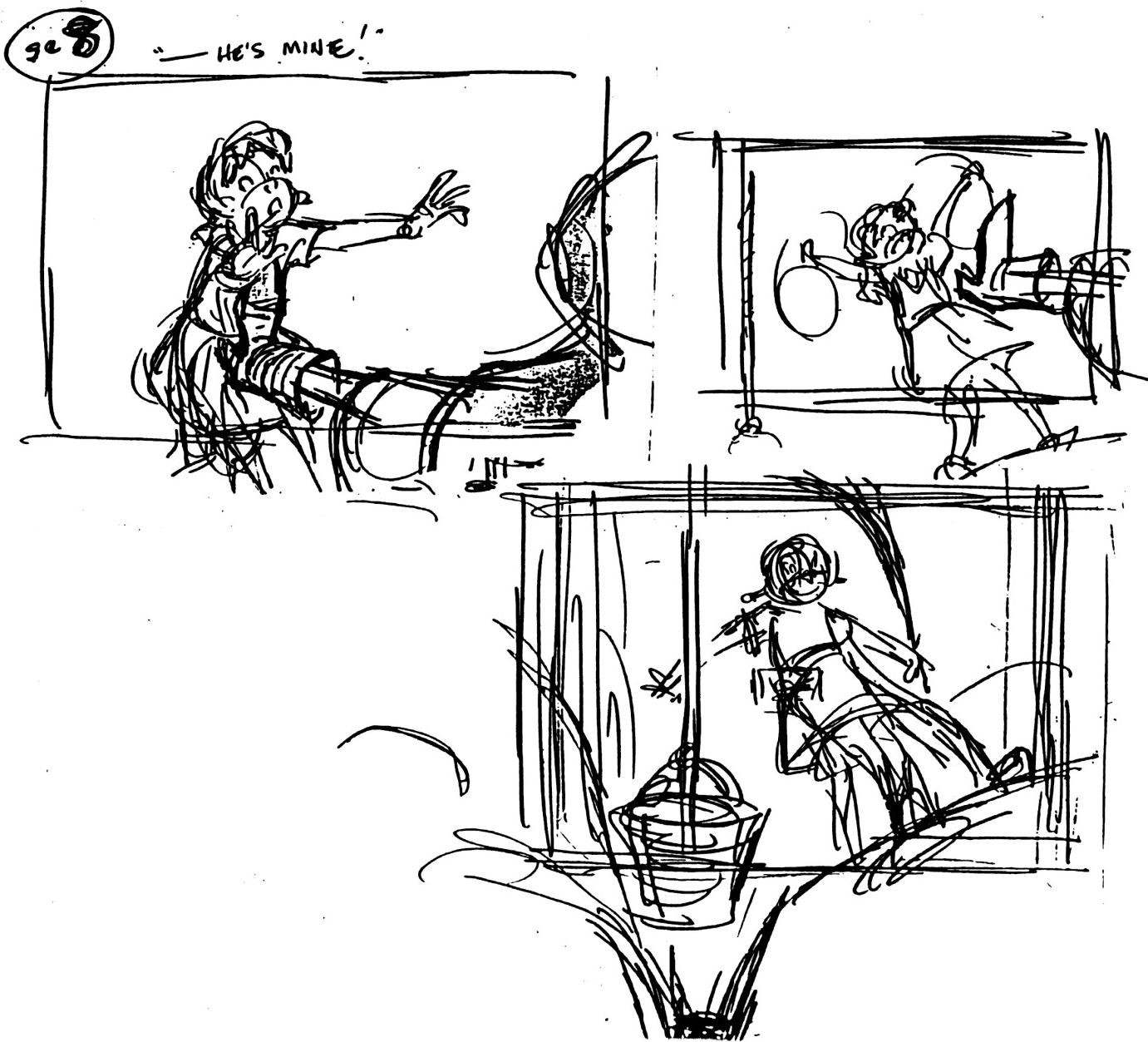


MEDUSA SNATCHES TEDDY BEAR.
— I'LL JUST KEEP HIM UP HERE WITH ME
WHERE HE'LL BE SAFE."



PENNY SUDDENLY
GOES INTO DEMON MODE:
"YOU GIVE ME BACK MY
TEDDY BEAR!"

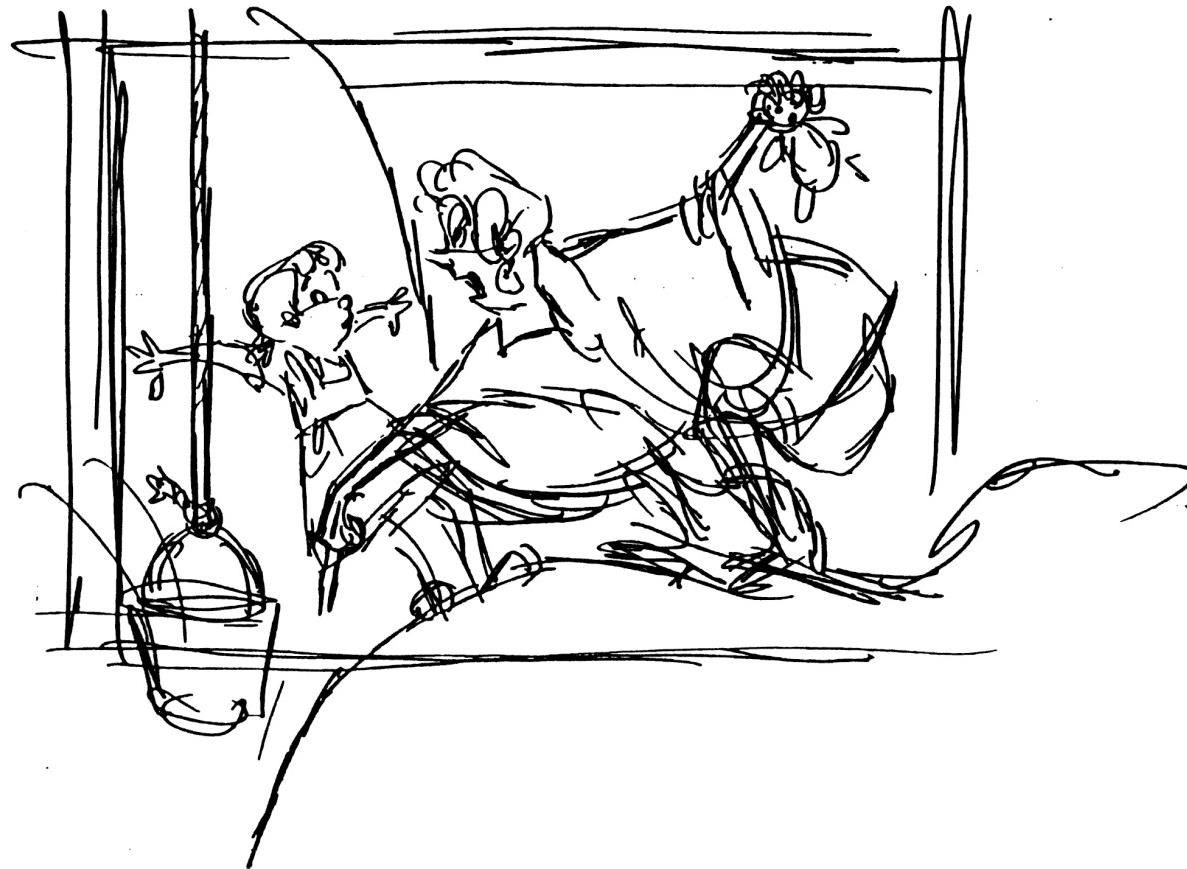
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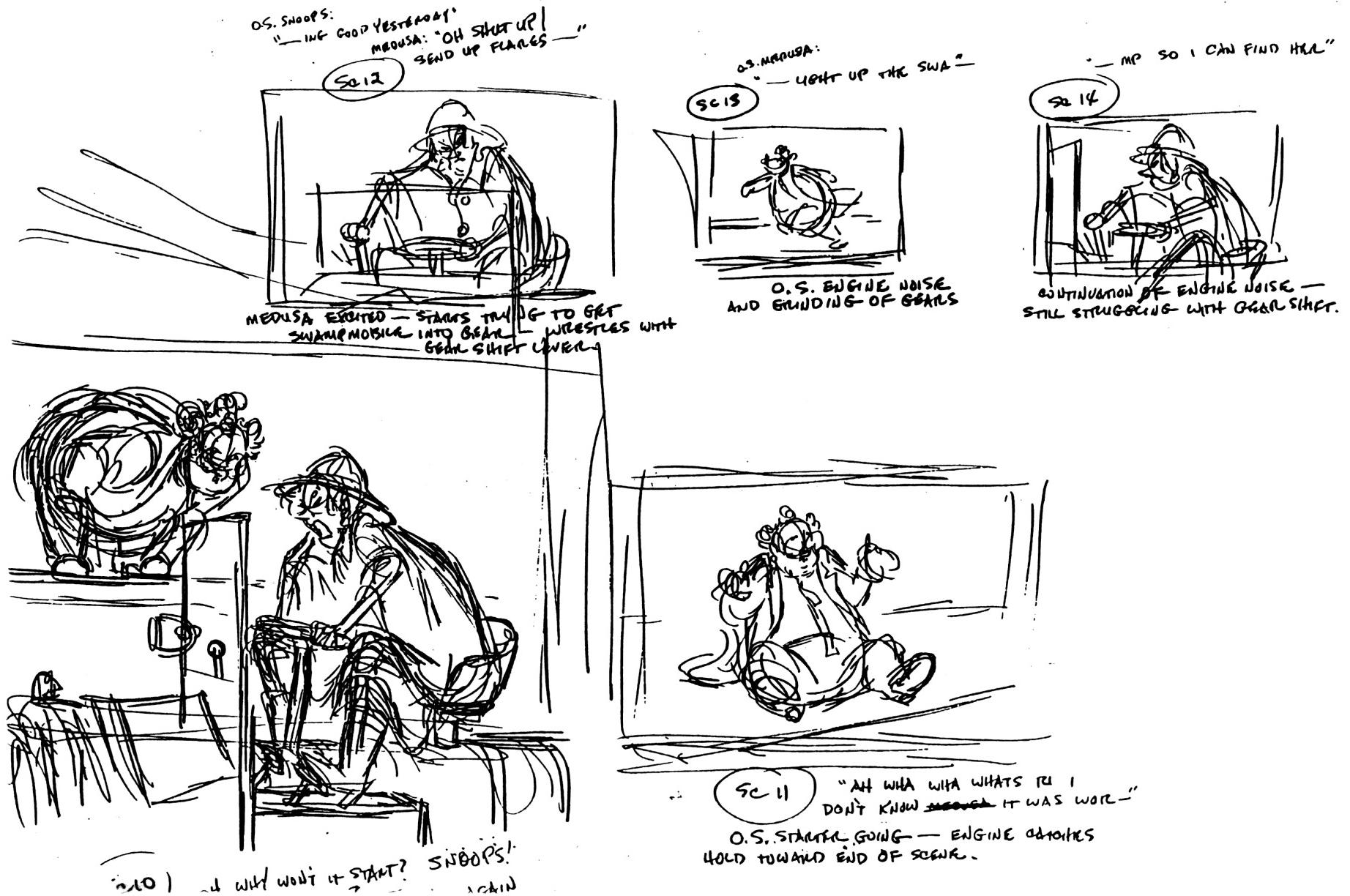
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meowsh: "YOU GET DOWN THERE & FIND THE BIG
DIAMOND OR YOU'LL NEVER SEE THAT
TEDDY AGAIN!"

Sc 10



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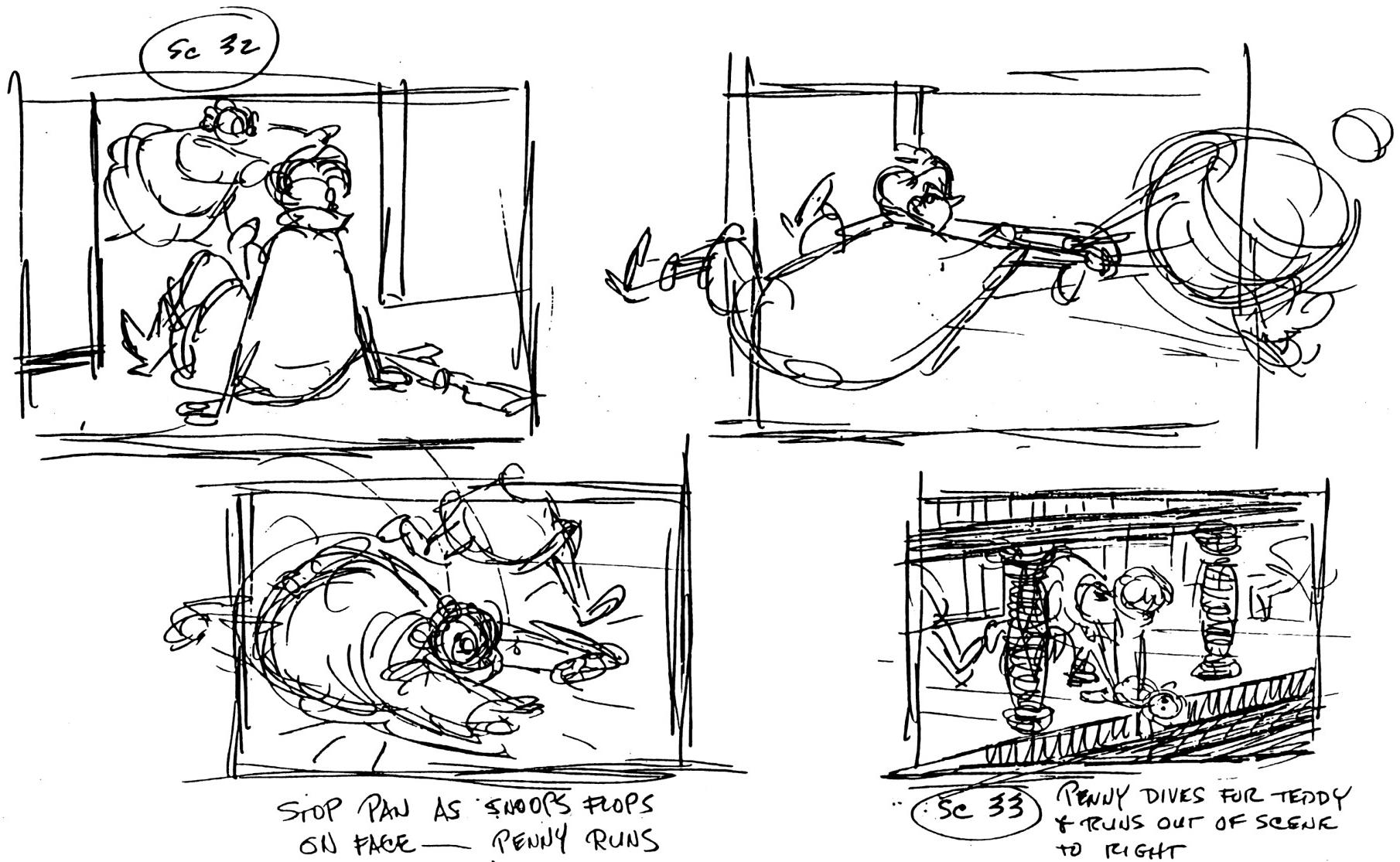
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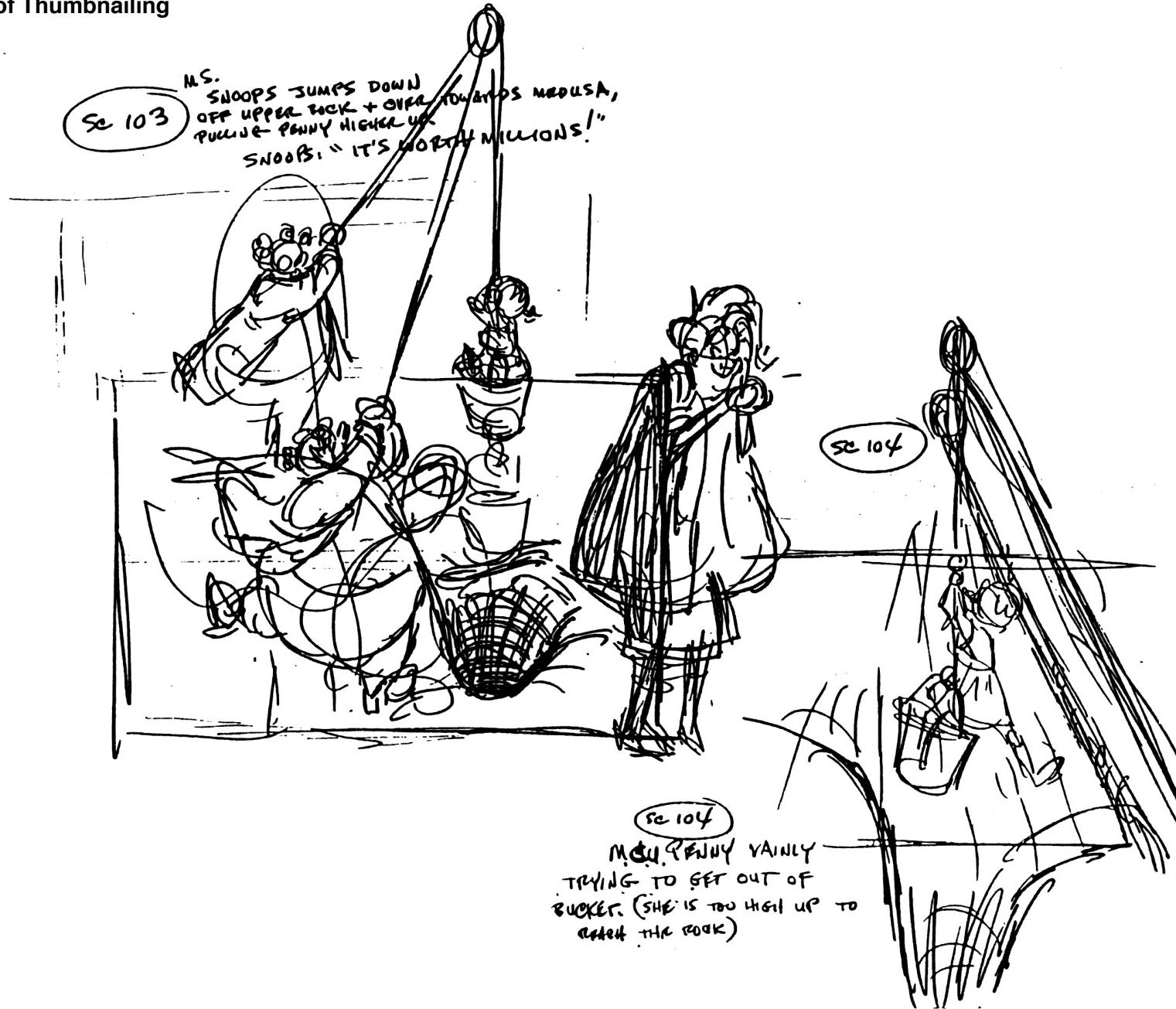
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Sc 103

M.S.
SNOOPS JUMPS DOWN
OFF UPPER ROCK + OVER TOWARDS MEDUSA,
PULLING PENNY HIGHER UP.
SNOOPS: "IT'S WORTH MILLIONS!"



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Sc 105 MED: "JUST LOOK AT IT — PELLETS WITH POWER FOR ITS OWNER"
SNOOPS: "LET ME LOOK AT IT!"



TRUCK TO EXTREME C.U. &
SHE FLASHES DIAMOND AT HIM
BRUMLY.

Sc 106 C.U. SNOOPS OVER MEDUSA'S
SHOULDER. HE LETS GO OF ROPE
IN ATTEMPT TO REACH DIAMOND.



VERY EXAGGERATED PERSPECTIVE
ON HAND.
SNOOPS: "HEY! THAT WASN'T A VERY GOOD CUE!"

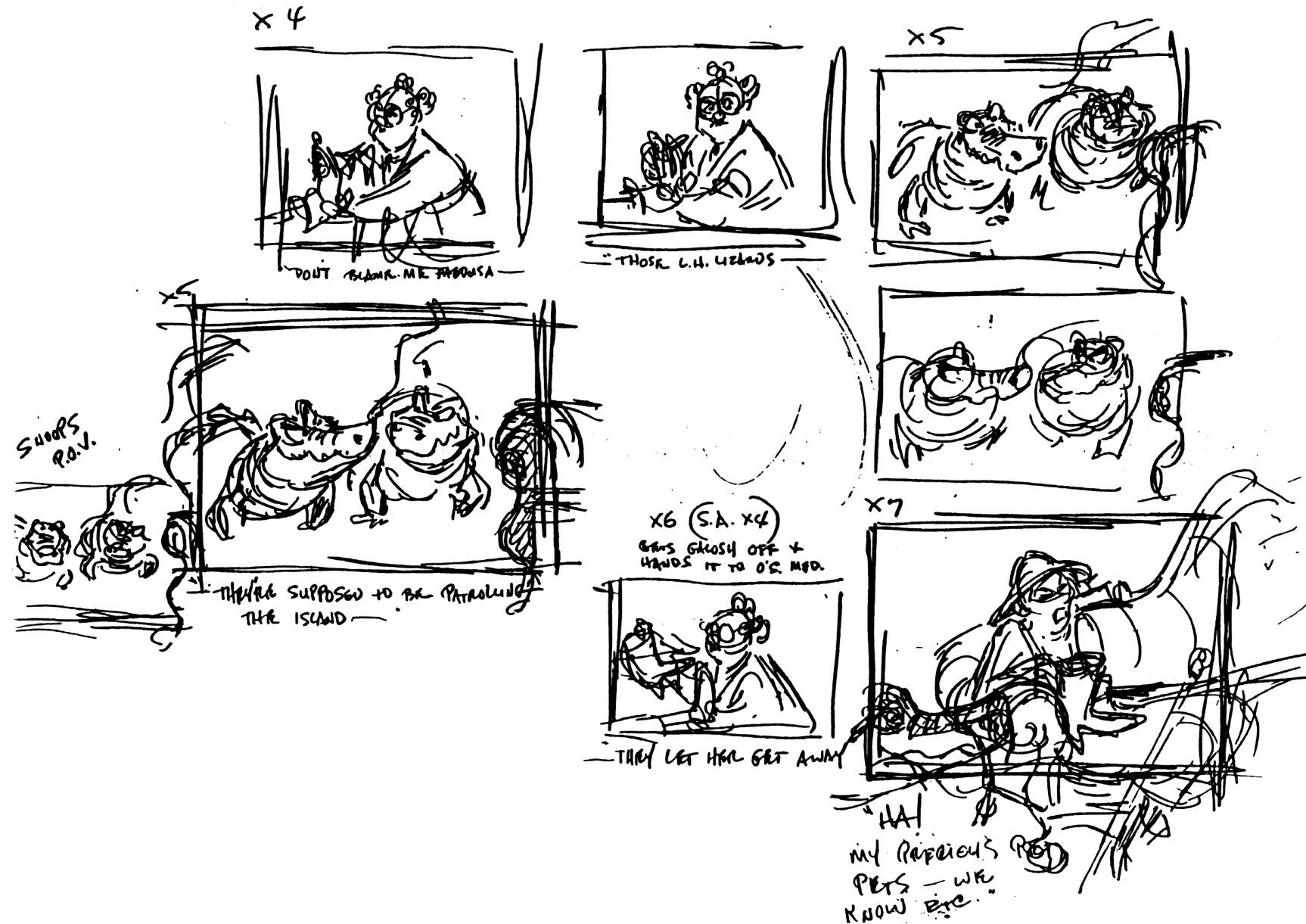
M.S.

BUCKET FALLS BACK INTO HOLE — PENNY
CLUTCHING TO EDGE.

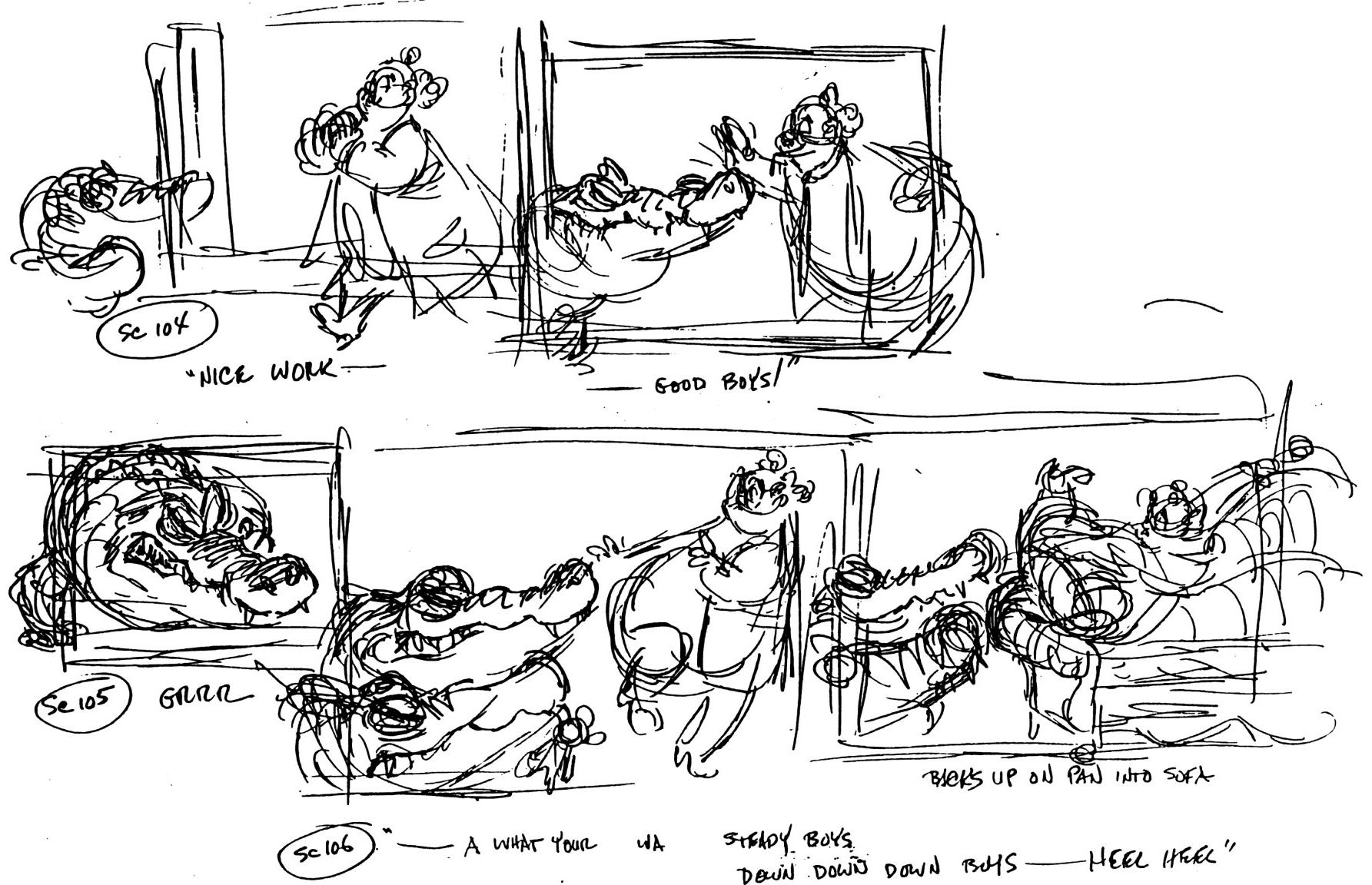
O.S. SNOOPS: "— BUT I
KNOW THERE'S ENOUGH TO CUT
INTO TWO EQUAL SHARES"



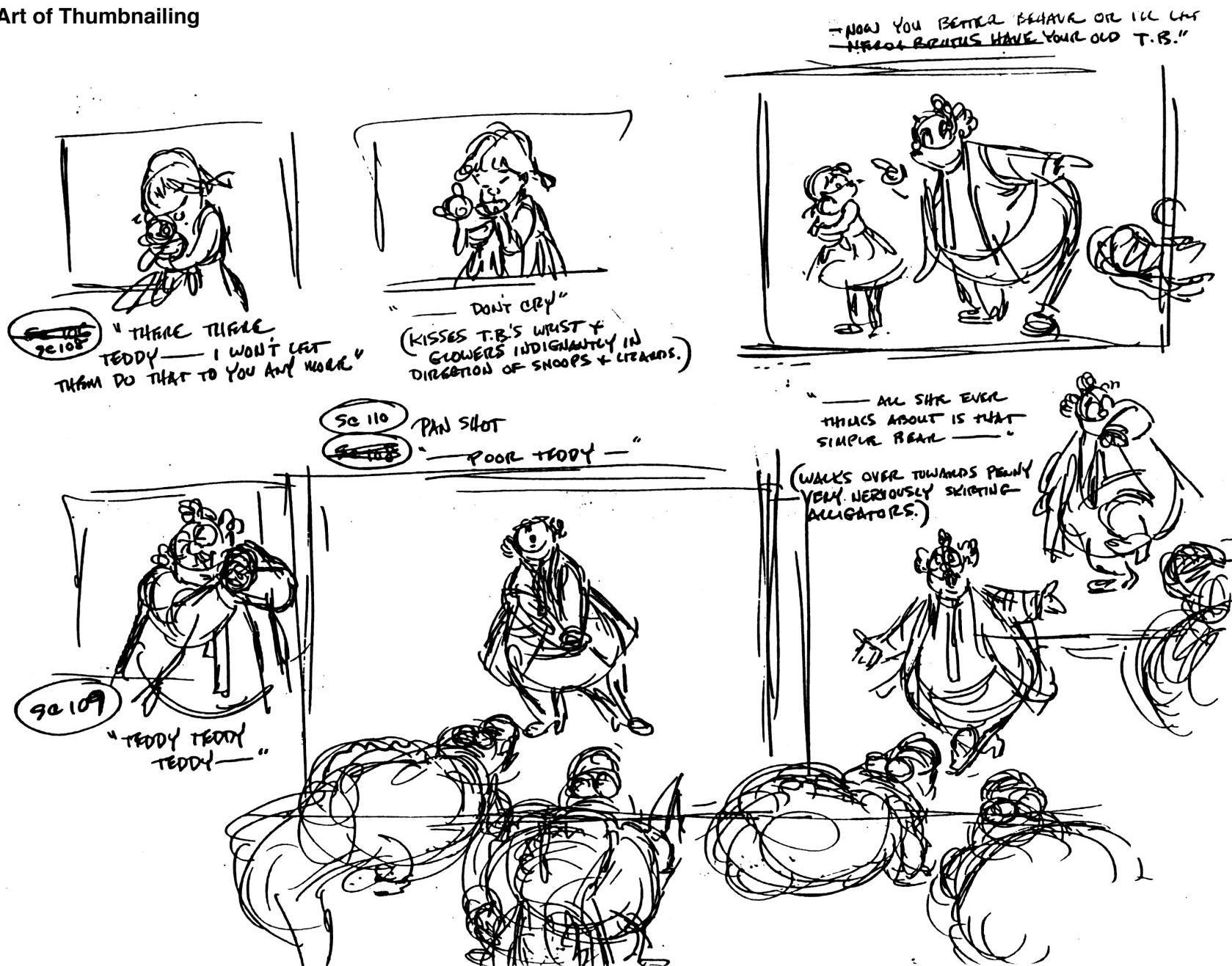
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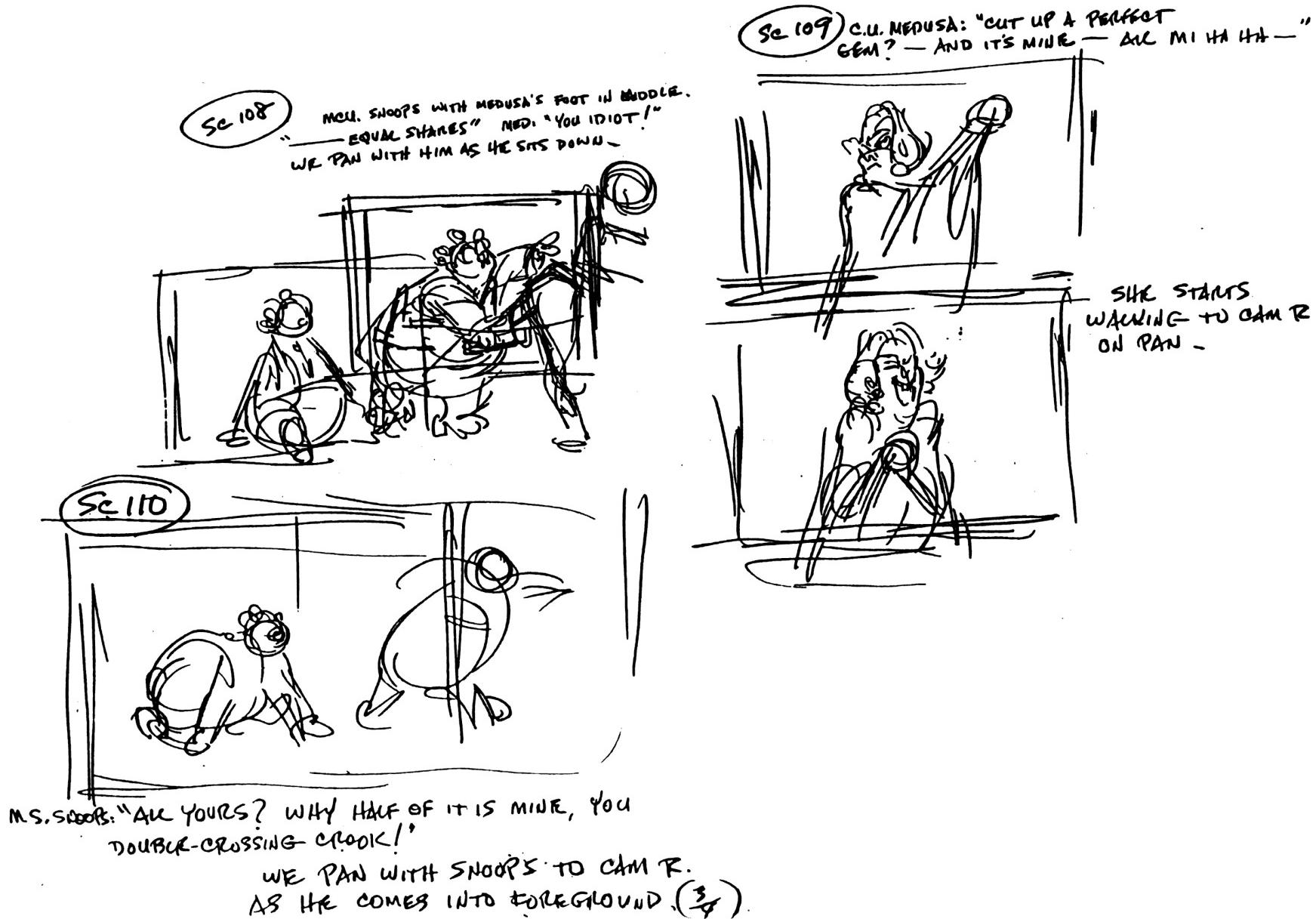
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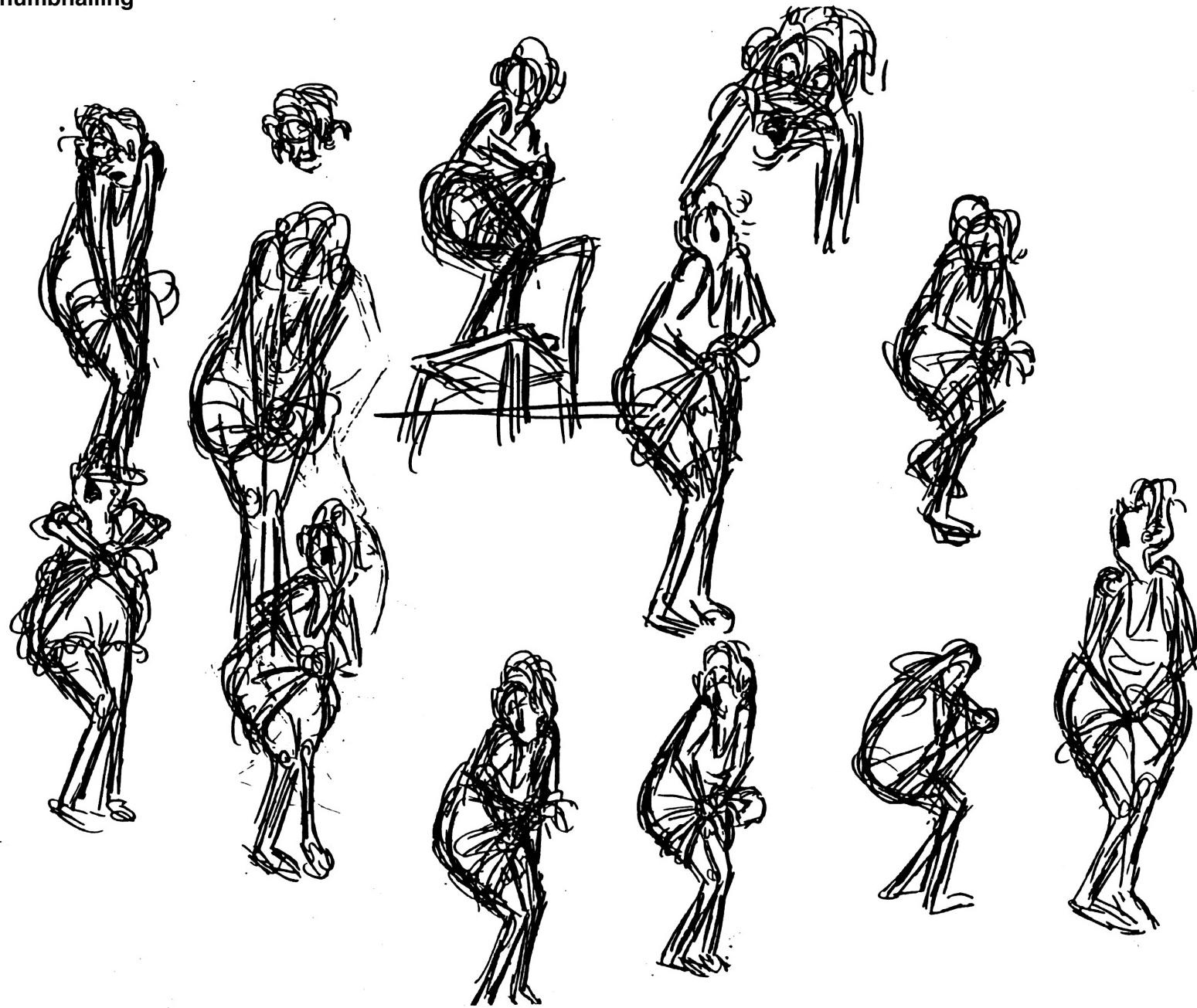
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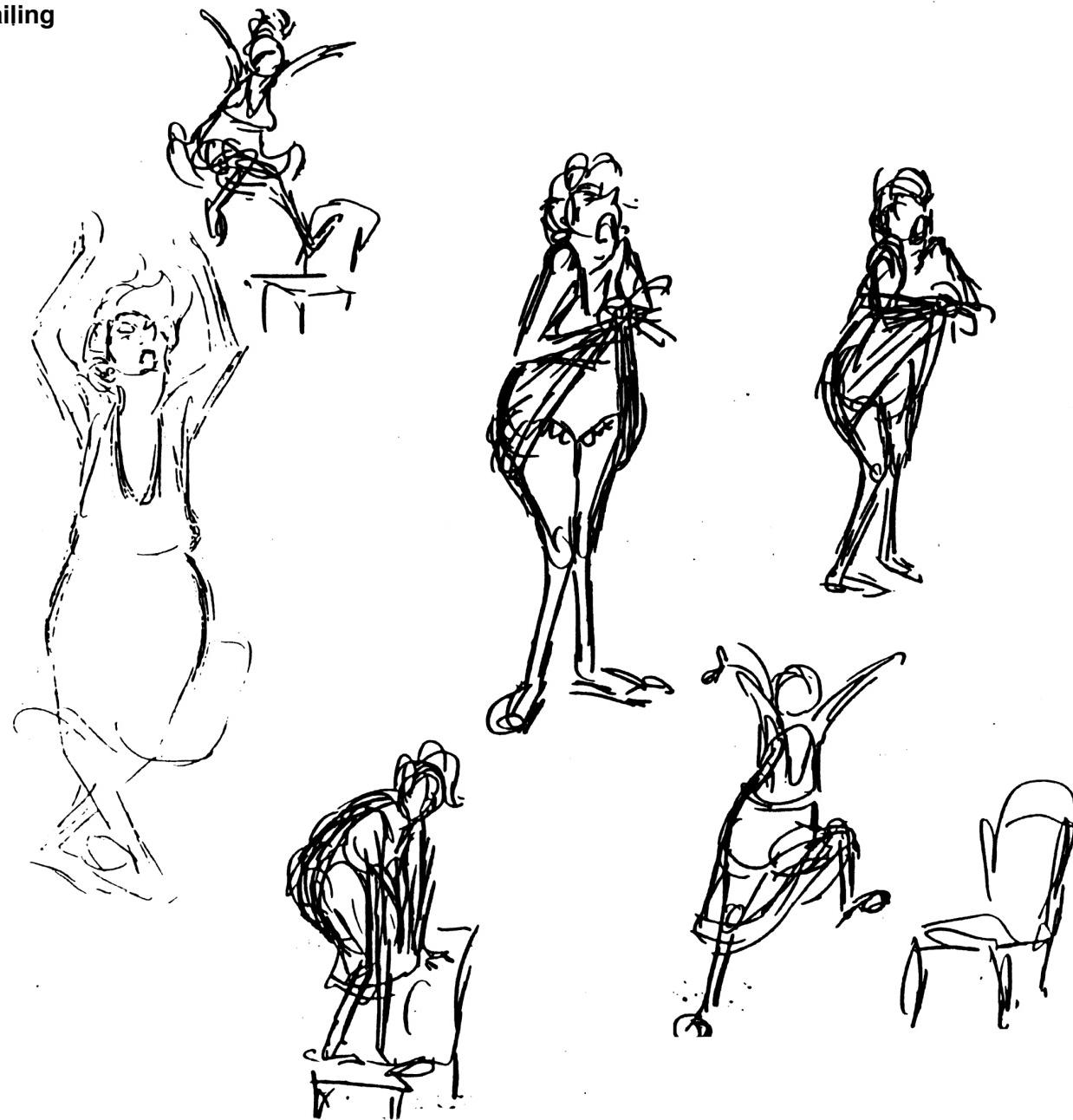
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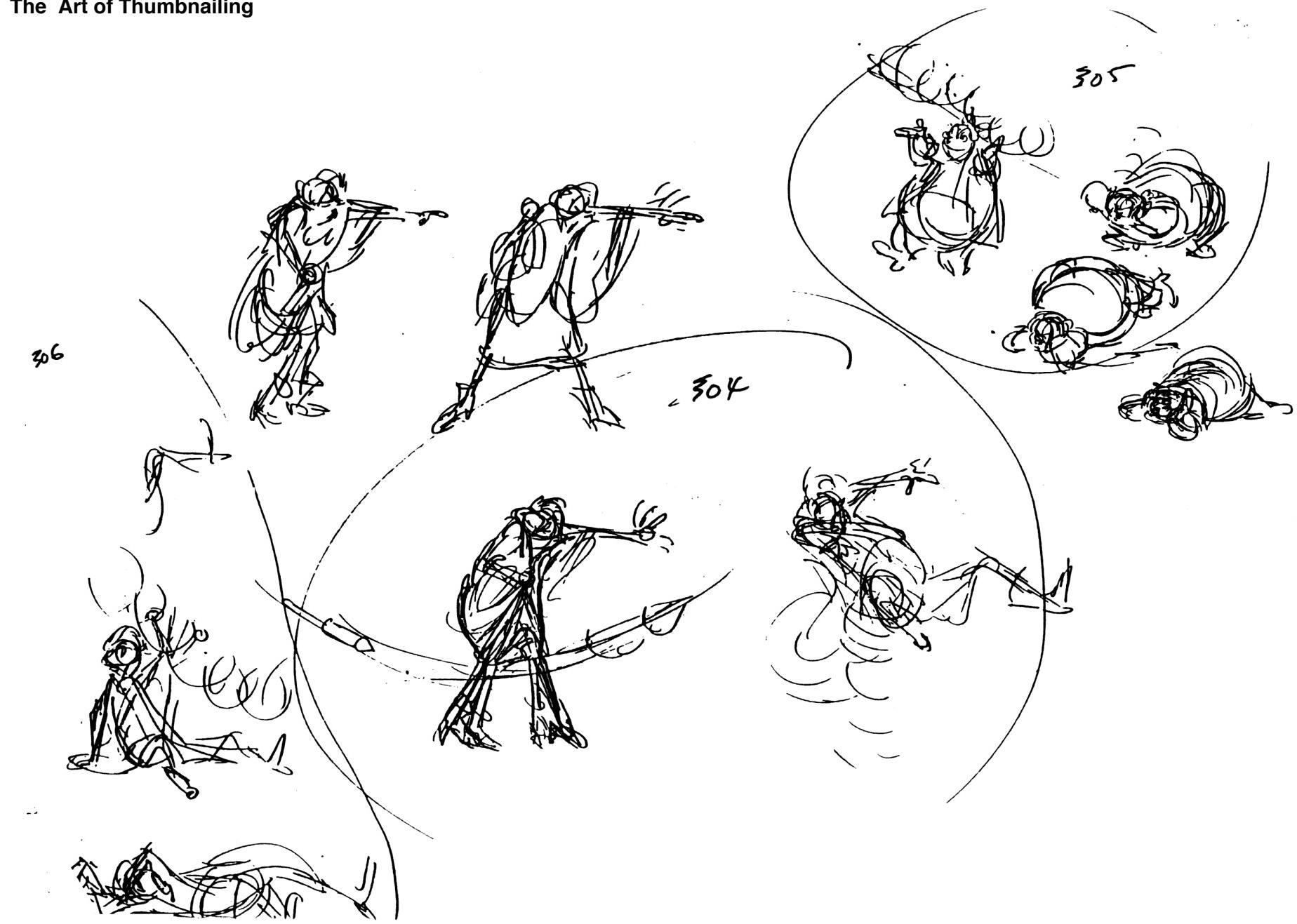
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